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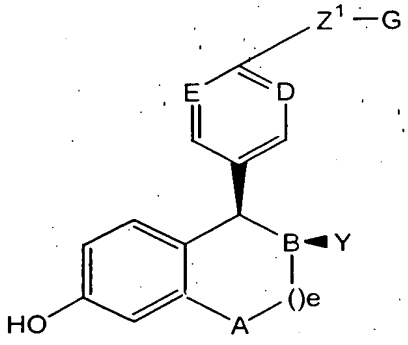
Claims

1. A process for preparing a compound of the formula:



I

wherein:

A is selected from CH_2 and NR;

B, D and E are independently selected from CH and N;

Y is

(a) phenyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(b) naphthyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(c) C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(d) C_3-C_8 cycloalkynyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(e) a five membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$-, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(f) a six membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$- optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4; or

(g) a bicyclic ring system consisting of a five or six membered heterocyclic ring fused to a phenyl ring, said heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2-, NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$-, optionally

substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 is

(a) $-(CH_2)_p W(CH_2)_q-$;

(b) $-O(CH_2)_p CR^5R^6-$;

(c) $-O(CH_2)_pW(CH_2)_q$;

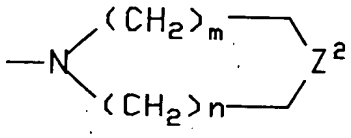
(d) $-OCHR^2CHR^3-$; or

(e) $-SCHR^2CHR^3-$;

G is

(a) $-NR^7R^8$;

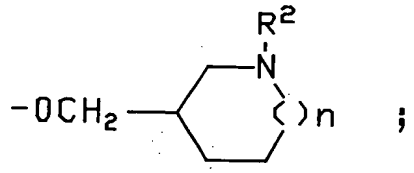
(b)



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 1, 2 or 3; Z^2 is -NH-, -O-, -S-, or $-CH_2-$; optionally fused on adjacent carbon atoms with one or two phenyl rings and, optionally independently substituted on carbon with one to three substituents and, optionally, independently on nitrogen with a chemically suitable substituent selected from R^4; or

(c) a bicyclic amine containing five to twelve carbon atoms, either bridged or fused and optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 and G in combination may be



;

W is

(a) $-CH_2-$;

(b) -CH=CH-;

(c) -O-;

(d) $-NR^2-$;

(e) $-S(O)_n-$;

(f)

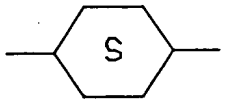
;

(g) $-CR^2(OH)-$;

(h) $-CONR^2-$;

(i) $-NR^2CO-$;

(j)



; or

(k) $-C\equiv C-$;

R is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2 and R^3 are independently

(a) hydrogen; or

(b) C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^4 is

(a) hydrogen;

(b) halogen;

(c) C_1-C_6 alkyl;

(d) C_1-C_4 alkoxy;

(e) C_1-C_4 acyloxy;

(f) C_1-C_4 alkylthio;

(g) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfinyl;

(h) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfonyl;

(i) hydroxy (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

(j) aryl (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

(k) $-CO_2H$;

(l) -CN;

(m) -CONHOR;

(n) $-SO_2NHR$;

(o) $-NH_2$;

(p) C_1-C_4 alkylamino;

(q) C_1-C_4 dialkylamino;

(r) $-NHSO_2R$;

(s) $-NO_2$;

(t) -aryl; or

(u) -OH.

R^5 and R^6 are independently C_1-C_8 alkyl or together form a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring;

R^7 and R^8 are independently

(a) phenyl;

(b) a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring, saturated or unsaturated;

(c) a C_3-C_{10} heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms, selected from -O-, -N- and -S-;

(d) H;

(e) C_1-C_6 alkyl; or

(f) form a 3 to 8 membered nitrogen containing ring with R^5 or R^6;

R^7 and R^8 in either linear or ring form may optionally be substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from C_1-C_6 alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, hydroxy and carboxy;

a ring formed by R^7 and R^8 may be optionally fused to a phenyl ring;

e is 0, 1 or 2;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

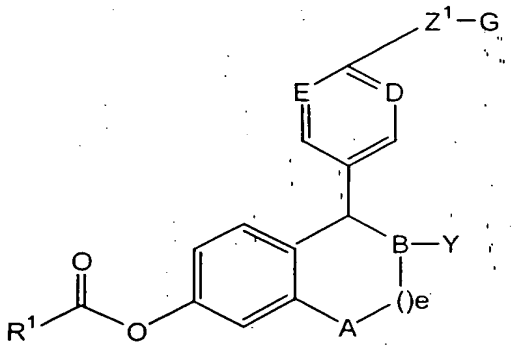
n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

q is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

and optical and geometric isomers thereof;

comprising selectively deacetylating a compound of the formula



II

wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups are optionally substituted by one to three halo, in the presence of a hydrolytic enzyme and an aqueous buffer solution.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is lipase.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is esterase.

4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is liver acetone powder.

5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is lipase from *Porcine pancreas*, cholesterol esterase from Pseudomonas Fluorscens and cholesterol esterase from *Porcine pancreas*.

6. A process according to claim 2, wherein the lipase is GC-4, PS30, AY30, PGE, AK, N, L-10, AP-12, FAP-15, R-10, G, MAP10, SAM II, lipase from *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, lipase from *Candida cylindracea*, Lip-300, lipase from *Chromobacterium viscosum*, lipase from *Mucor miehei*, lipase from *Pancreatic*, lipase from *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, lipase from *Rhizopus niveus*, PPL, type II, lipase from *Wheat germ*, lipase from *Rhizopus arrhizus*, lipase from *Mucor javanicus*, lipase from *Pseudomonas cepacia*, lipase from *Cadia lipolytica*, lipase from *Penicillium roqueforti*, lipoprotein lipase ca#70-6571-01, lipase from *Porcine pancreas*, and lipoprotein lipase ca# 70-1481-01.

7. A process according to claim 3, wherein the esterase is PLE-A, immobilized, hog liver, esterase from *Hog pancreas*, *Porcine liver* E-3128, cholesterin-esterase, cholesterol esterase from Pseudomonas fluorescens, cholesterol esterase from *Porcine pancreas*, cholesterol esterase from *Bovine pancreas*, cholesterol esterase from *Pseudonomas fluorescens*, cholesterol esterase

from *Porcine liver*, cholesterol esterase from *Rabbit liver*, cholinesterase, cholinesterase from *Electric eel*, cholinesterase, choloylglycine hydrolase, esterase from *Thermoanaerobium brockii*, esterase from *Bacillus sp* and esterase from *Mucor miehi*.

8. A process according to claim 4, wherein the liver acetone powder is cat I-1256, dog I7379, eel I-1266, horse I9627, calf I7876, guinea pig I1631, mouse I8254, goat I2635, chicken I8001, sheep I0132, pigeon I8376, seal I7627, rattlesnake I9885, trout I5131, turtle I-0757, rat I1380, lungfish I7377, salmon I7502, eel (electrophorus electricus) I8380 and lemon shark I1130.

9. A process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is immobilized on a solid support.

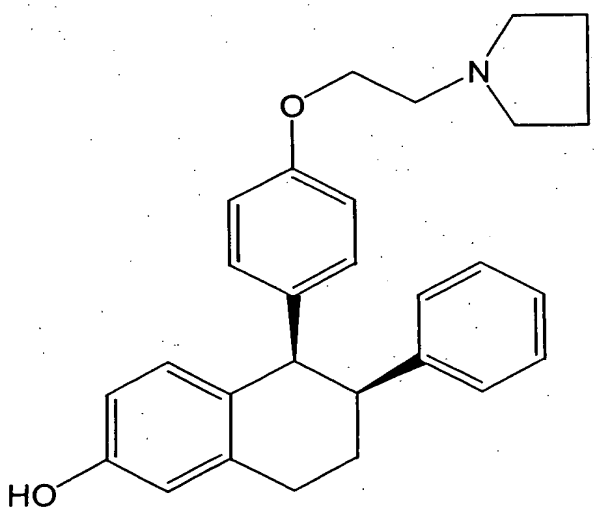
10. A process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is a cross-linked enzyme.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein the lipase is in pure crystalline form.

12. A process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous buffer solution is a phosphate, citric acid or boronic acid solution.

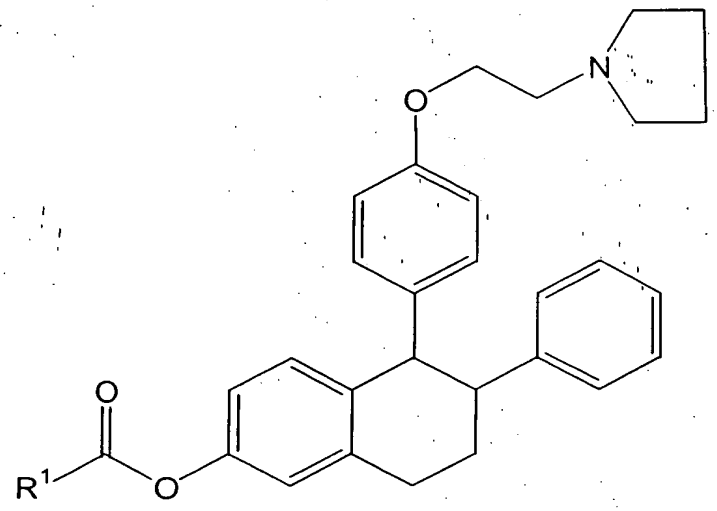
13. A process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous buffer solution has a pH between a pH of about 6 to a pH of about 8.

14. A process according to claim 1, for preparing a compound of the formula



VII

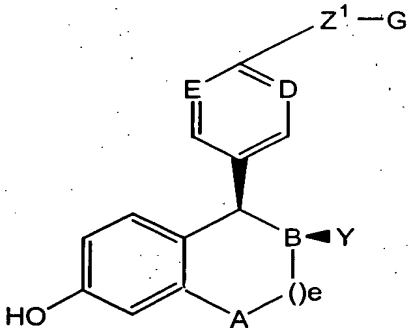
comprising selectively deacetylating a compound of the formula



VIII

wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups are optionally substituted by one to three halo in the presence of a hydrolytic enzyme and an aqueous buffer solution.

15. A process for preparing a compound of the formula:



I

wherein:

A is selected from CH_2 and NR;

B, D and E are independently selected from CH and N;

Y is

(a) phenyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(b) naphthyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(c) $C_3\text{-}C_8$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(d) C_3-C_8 cycloalkynyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(e) a five membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$-, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(f) a six membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$- optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4; or

(g) a bicyclic ring system consisting of a five or six membered heterocyclic ring fused to a phenyl ring, said heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2-, NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$-, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 is

(a) -$(CH_2)_p W(CH_2)_q$-;

(b) -$O(CH_2)_p CR^5R^6$-;

(c) -$O(CH_2)_pW(CH_2)_q$;

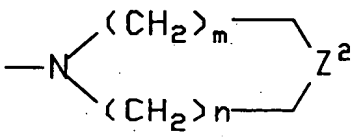
(d) -$OCHR^2CHR^3$-; or

(e) -$SCHR^2CHR^3$-;

G is

(a) -NR^7R^8;

(b)

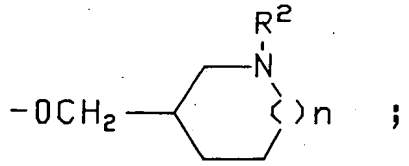


wherein n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 1, 2 or 3; Z^2 is -NH-, -O-, -S-, or -CH_2-; optionally fused on adjacent carbon atoms with one or two phenyl rings and, optionally independently substituted on carbon with one to three substituents and, optionally,

independently on nitrogen with a chemically suitable substituent selected from R^4; or

(c) a bicyclic amine containing five to twelve carbon atoms, either bridged or fused and optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 and G in combination may be



;

W is

(a) $-CH_2-$;

(b) -CH=CH-;

(c) -O-;

(d) $-NR^2-$;

(e) $-S(O)_n-$;

(f)

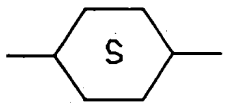
;

(g) $-CR^2(OH)-$;

(h) $-CONR^2-$;

(i) $-NR^2CO-$;

(j)



; or

(k) -C≡C-;

R is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2 and R^3 are independently

(a) hydrogen; or

(b) C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^4 is

(a) hydrogen;

(b) halogen;
(c) C_1-C_6 alkyl;
(d) C_1-C_4 alkoxy;
(e) C_1-C_4 acyloxy;
(f) C_1-C_4 alkylthio;
(g) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfinyl;
(h) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfonyl;
(i) hydroxy (C_1-C_4)alkyl;
(j) aryl (C_1-C_4)alkyl;
(k) $-CO_2H$;
(l) -CN;
(m) -CONHOR;
(n) $-SO_2NHR$;
(o) $-NH_2$;
(p) C_1-C_4 alkylamino;
(q) C_1-C_4 dialkylamino;
(r) $-NHSO_2R$;
(s) $-NO_2$;
(t) -aryl; or
(u) -OH.

R^5 and R^6 are independently C_1-C_8 alkyl or together form a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring;

R^7 and R^8 are independently

(a) phenyl;
(b) a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring, saturated or unsaturated;
(c) a C_3-C_{10} heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms, selected from -O-, -N- and -S-;
(d) H;
(e) C_1-C_6 alkyl; or
(f) form a 3 to 8 membered nitrogen containing ring with R^5 or R^6;

R^7 and R^8 in either linear or ring form may optionally be substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from C_1-C_6 alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, hydroxy and carboxy;

a ring formed by R^7 and R^8 may be optionally fused to a phenyl ring;

e is 0, 1 or 2;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

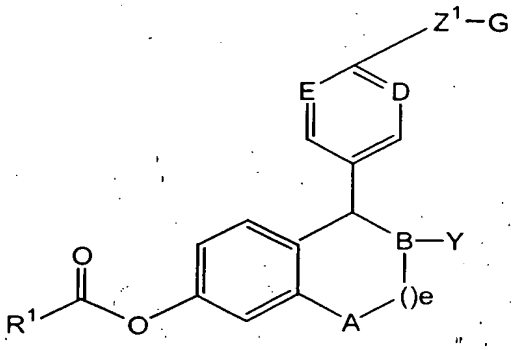
n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

q is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

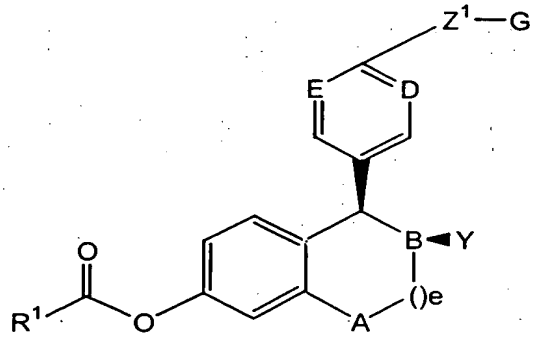
and optical and geometric isomers thereof;

comprising enzymatically resolving of a compound of the formula



II

wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups are optionally substituted by one to three halo in the presence of a lipase and an aqueous buffer solution; and (b) reacting the compound of formula IV so formed



IV

wherein $R^1$is as defined above, with a base in the presence of a polar protic solvent.

16. A process according to claim 15, wherein the aqueous buffer solution is a phosphate, citric acid or boronic acid solution.

17. A process according to claim 15, wherein the lipase from *Mucor miehei.*

18. A process according to claim 15, wherein the base is sodium methoxy, sodium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.

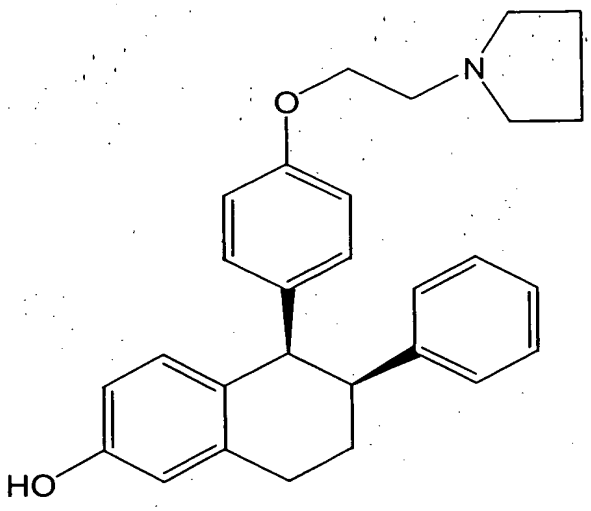
19. A process according to claim 15, wherein the polar protic solvent is methanol, ethanol or water.

20. A process according to claim 15, wherein the lipase is immobilized on a solid support.

21. A process according to claim 15, wherein the lipase is a cross-linked enzyme.

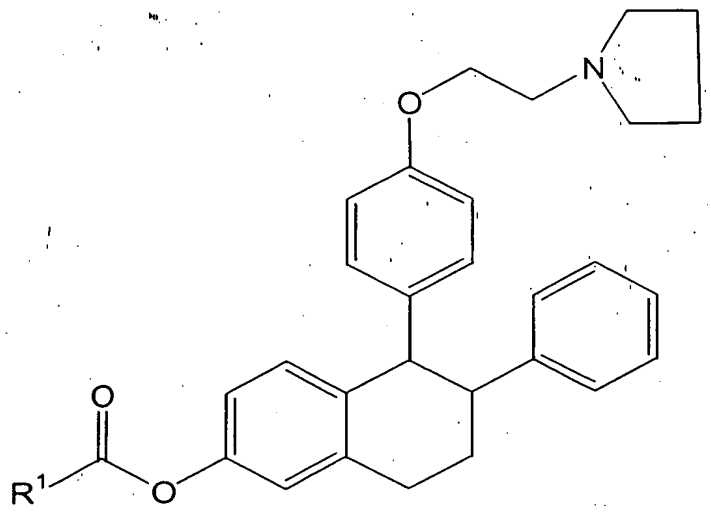
22. A process according to claim 15, wherein the lipase is in pure crystalline form.

23. A process according to claim 15, for preparing a compound of the formula



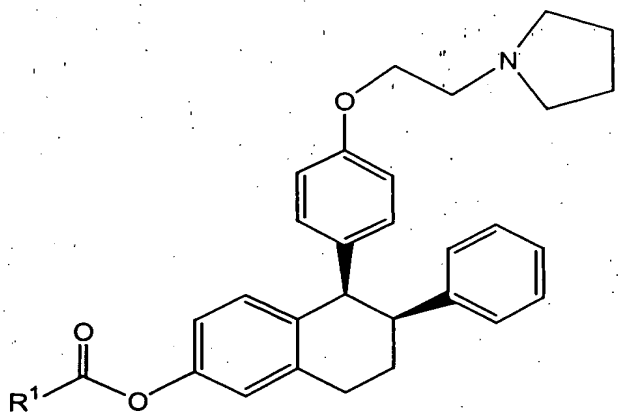
VII

comprising enzymatically resolving of a compound of the formula



VIII

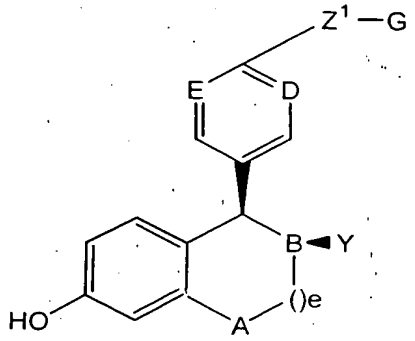
wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups are optionally substituted by one to three halo in the presence of a lipase and an aqueous buffer solution; and (b) reacting the compound of Formula X so formed



X

wherein $R^1$is as defined above, with a base in the presence of a polar protic solvent.

24. A process for preparing a compound of the formula:



I

wherein:

A is selected from CH_2 and NR;

B, D and E are independently selected from CH and N;

Y is

(a) phenyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(b) naphthyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(c) C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(d) C_3-C_8 cycloalkynyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(e) a five membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$-, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(f) a six membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$- optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4; or

(g) a bicyclic ring system consisting of a five or six membered heterocyclic ring fused to a phenyl ring, said heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, -NR^2-, NR^2- and -$S(O)_n$-, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 is

(a) $-(CH_2)_p W(CH_2)_q-$;

(b) $-O(CH_2)_p CR^5R^6-$;

(c) $-O(CH_2)_pW(CH_2)_q$;

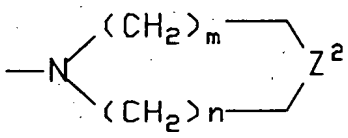
(d) $-OCHR^2CHR^3-$; or

(e) $-SCHR^2CHR^3-$;

G is

(a) $-NR^7R^8$;

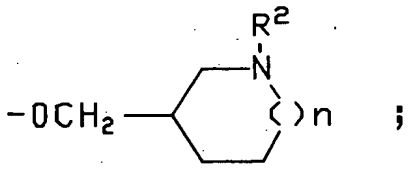
(b)



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 1, 2 or 3; Z^2 is -NH-, -O-, -S-, or $-CH_2-$; optionally fused on adjacent carbon atoms with one or two phenyl rings and, optionally independently substituted on carbon with one to three substituents and, optionally, independently on nitrogen with a chemically suitable substituent selected from R^4; or

(c) a bicyclic amine containing five to twelve carbon atoms, either bridged or fused and optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 and G in combination may be



;

W is

(a) $-CH_2-$;

(b) -CH=CH-;

(c) -O-;

(d) $-NR^2-$;

(e) $-S(O)_n-$;

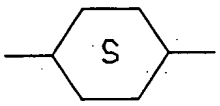
(f)

(g) $-CR^2(OH)-$;

(h) $-CONR^2-$;

(i) $-NR^2CO-$;

(j)



; or

(k) $-C\equiv C-$;

R is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2 and R^3 are independently

(a) hydrogen; or

(b) C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^4 is

(a) hydrogen;

(b) halogen;

(c) C_1-C_6 alkyl;

(d) C_1-C_4 alkoxy;

(e) C_1-C_4 acyloxy;

(f) C_1-C_4 alkylthio;

(g) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfinyl;

(h) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfonyl;

(i) hydroxy (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

(j) aryl (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

(k) $-CO_2H$;

(l) -CN;

(m) -CONHOR;

(n) $-SO_2NHR$;

(o) $-NH_2$;

(p) C_1-C_4 alkylamino;

(q) C_1-C_4 dialkylamino;

(r) $-NHSO_2R$;

(s) $-NO_2$;

(t) -aryl; or

(u) -OH.

R^5 and R^6 are independently C_1-C_8 alkyl or together form a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring;

R^7 and R^8 are independently

(a) phenyl;

(b) a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring, saturated or unsaturated;

(c) a C_3-C_{10} heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms, selected from -O-, -N- and -S-;

(d) H;

(e) C_1-C_6 alkyl; or

(f) form a 3 to 8 membered nitrogen containing ring with R^5 or R^6;

R^7 and R^8 in either linear or ring form may optionally be substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from C_1-C_6 alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, hydroxy and carboxy;

a ring formed by R^7 and R^8 may be optionally fused to a phenyl ring;

e is 0, 1 or 2;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

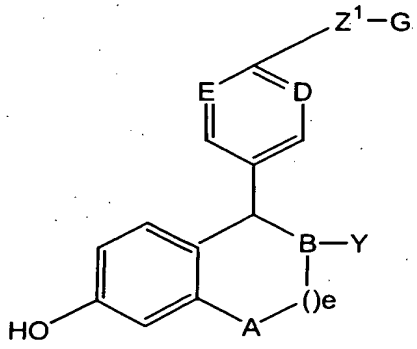
n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

q is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

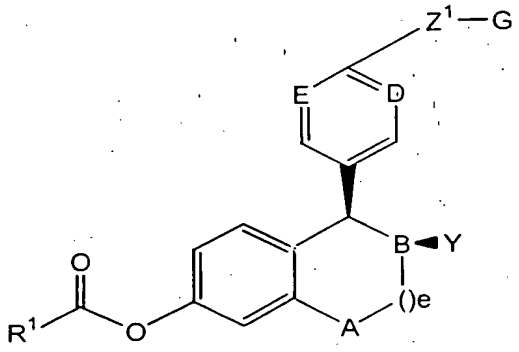
and optical and geometric isomers thereof;

comprising enzymatically resolving of a compound of the formula



VI

in the presence of a lipase and an acetylating agent, and (b) reacting the compound of formula IV so formed



IV

wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups are optionally substituted by one to three halo, with a base in the presence of a polar protic solvent.

25. A process according to claim 24, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is a lipase.

26. A process according to claim 24, wherein the lipase is GC-4, PS30, AY30, PGE, AK, N, L-10, AP-12, FAP-15, R-10, G, MAP10, SAM II, lipase from *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, lipase from *Candida cylindracea*, Lip-300, lipase from *Chromobacterium viscosum*, lipase from *Mucor miehei*, lipase from *Pancreatic*, lipase from *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, lipase from *Rhizopus niveus*, PPL, type II, lipase from *Wheat germ*, lipase from *Rhizopus arrhizus*, lipase from *Mucor javanicus*, lipase from *Pseudomonas cepacia*, lipase from *Cadia lipolytica*, lipase from *Penicillium roqueforti*, lipoprotein lipase ca#70-6571-01, lipase from *Porcine pancreas*, and lipoprotein lipase ca# 70-1481-01.

27. A process according to claim 24, wherein the acetylating agent is ethyl acetate, vinyl acetate, chloroacetate or trifluoroacetate.

28. A process according to claim 24, wherein the base is sodium methoxy, sodium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.

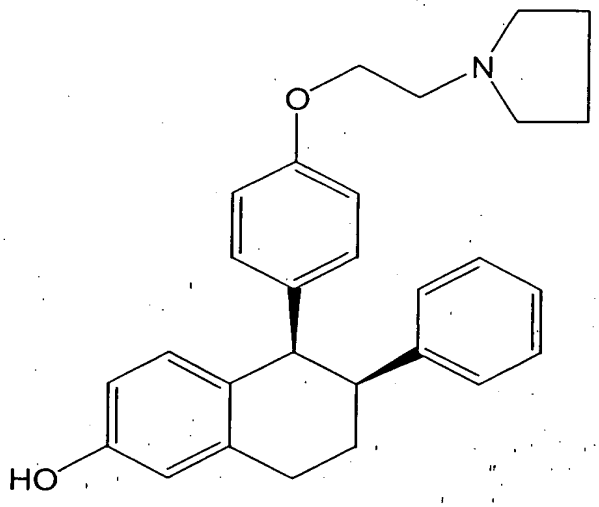
29. A process according to claim 24, wherein the polar protic solvent is methanol, ethanol or water.

30. A process according to claim 24, wherein the lipase is immobilized on a solid support.

31. A process according to claim 24, wherein the lipase is a cross-linked enzyme.

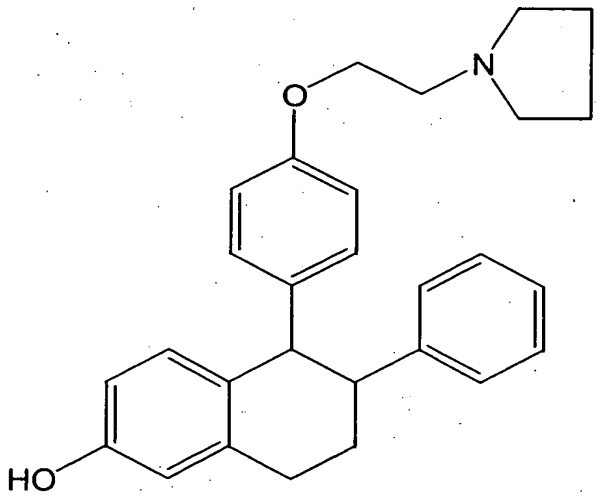
32. A process according to claim 24, wherein the lipase is in pure crystalline form.

33. A process according to claim 24, for preparing a compound of the formula



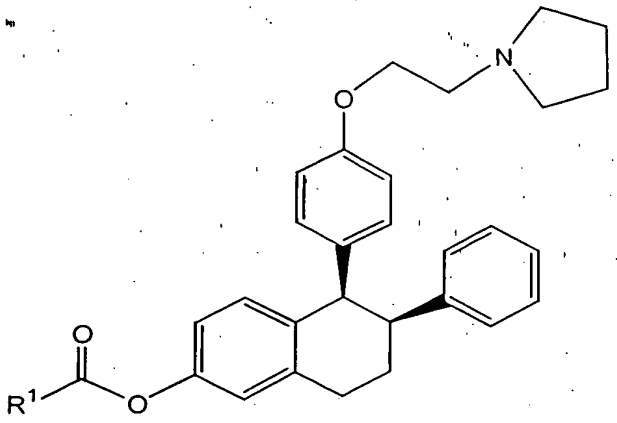
VII

comprising enzymatically resolving of a compound of the formula



XII

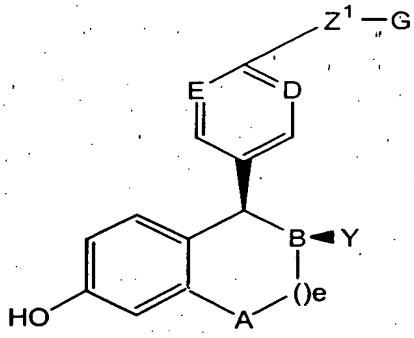
in the presence of a lipase and acetylating agent, and (b) reacting the compound of Formula X so formed



X

wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups are optionally substituted by one to three halo, with a base in the presence of a polar protic solvent.

34. A process for preparing a compound of the formula:



I

wherein:

A is selected from CH_2 and NR;

B, D and E are independently selected from CH and N;

Y is

(a) phenyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(b) naphthyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(c) $C_3\text{-}C_8$ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(d) $C_3\text{-}C_8$ cycloalkynyl, optionally substituted with 1-2 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(e) a five membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, $-NR^2-$ and $-S(O)_n-$, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

(f) a six membered heterocycle containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, $-NR^2-$ and $-S(O)_n-$ optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4; or

(g) a bicyclic ring system consisting of a five or six membered heterocyclic ring fused to a phenyl ring, said heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -O-, $-NR^2-$, NR^2- and $-S(O)_n-$, optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 is

(a) $-(CH_2)_p W(CH_2)_q-$;

(b) $-O(CH_2)_p CR^5R^6-$;

(c) $-O(CH_2)_pW(CH_2)_q$;

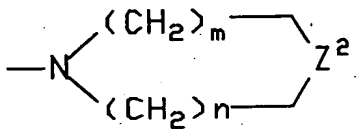
(d) $-OCHR^2CHR^3-$; or

(e) $-SCHR^2CHR^3-$;

G is

(a) $-NR^7R^8$;

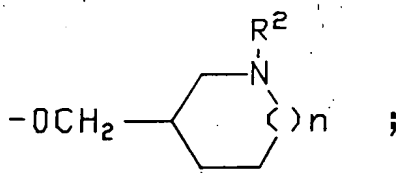
(b)



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 1, 2 or 3; Z^2 is -NH-, -O-, -S-, or $-CH_2-$; optionally fused on adjacent carbon atoms with one or two phenyl rings and, optionally independently substituted on carbon with one to three substituents and, optionally, independently on nitrogen with a chemically suitable substituent selected from R^4; or

(c) a bicyclic amine containing five to twelve carbon atoms, either bridged or fused and optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from R^4;

Z^1 and G in combination may be



W is

(a) $-CH_2-$;

(b) $-CH=CH-$;

(c) $-O-$;

(d) $-NR^2-$;

(e) $-S(O)_n-$;

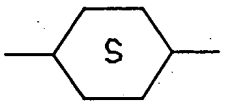
(f)

(g) $-CR^2(OH)-$;

(h) $-CONR^2-$;

(i) $-NR^2CO-$;

(j)



; or

(k) $-C\equiv C-$;

R is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2 and R^3 are independently

(a) hydrogen; or

(b) C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^4 is

(a) hydrogen;

(b) halogen;

(c) C_1-C_6 alkyl;

(d) C_1-C_4 alkoxy;
(e) C_1-C_4 acyloxy;
(f) C_1-C_4 alkylthio;
(g) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfinyl;
(h) C_1-C_4 alkylsulfonyl;
(i) hydroxy (C_1-C_4)alkyl;
(j) aryl (C_1-C_4)alkyl;
(k) $-CO_2H$;
(l) -CN;
(m) -CONHOR;
(n) $-SO_2NHR$;
(o) $-NH_2$;
(p) C_1-C_4 alkylamino;
(q) C_1-C_4 dialkylamino;
(r) $-NHSO_2R$;
(s) $-NO_2$;
(t) -aryl; or
(u) -OH.

R^5 and R^6 are independently C_1-C_8 alkyl or together form a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring;

R^7 and R^8 are independently

(a) phenyl;
(b) a C_3-C_{10} carbocyclic ring, saturated or unsaturated;
(c) a C_3-C_{10} heterocyclic ring containing up to two heteroatoms, selected from -O-, -N- and -S-;
(d) H;
(e) C_1-C_6 alkyl; or
(f) form a 3 to 8 membered nitrogen containing ring with R^5 or R^6;

R^7 and R^8 in either linear or ring form may optionally be substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from C_1-C_6 alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, hydroxy and carboxy;

a ring formed by R^7 and R^8 may be optionally fused to a phenyl ring;

e is 0, 1 or 2;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

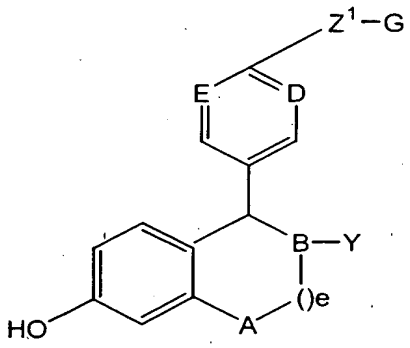
n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

q is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

and optical and geometric isomers thereof;

comprising enzymatically resolving of a compound of the formula



VI

wherein R^1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, in the presence of lipase.

35. A process according to claim 34, wherein the lipase is *Mucor miehei*.

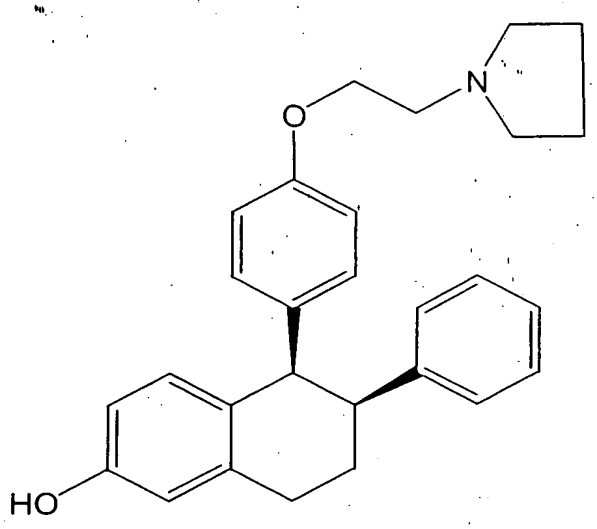
36. A process according to claim 34, wherein the lipase is immobilized on a solid support.

37. A process according to claim 34, wherein the lipase is a cross-linked enzyme.

38. A process according to claim 34, wherein the lipase is in pure crystalline form.

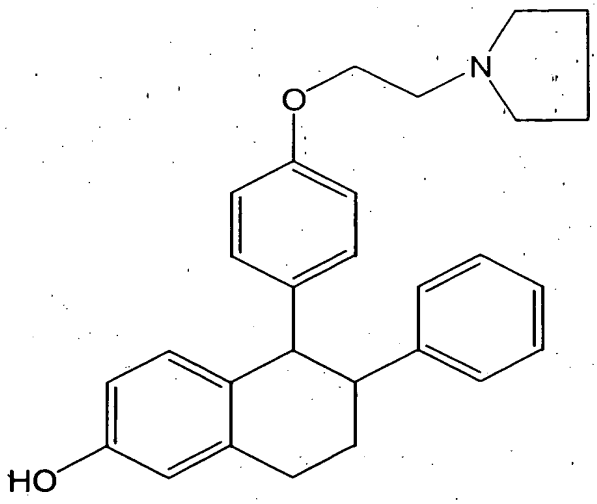
39. A process according to claim 34, wherein the hydrolytic enzyme is lipase from *Porcine pancreas*, cholesterol esterase from Pseudomonas Fluorscens and cholesterol esterase from *Porcine pancreas*.

40. A process according to claim 34, for preparing a compound of the formula



VII

comprising enzymatically resolving of a compound of the formula



XII

in the presence of lipase.